



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Side event

The role of parliaments in implementing the Paris Agreement

*Tuesday, 25 October 2016 (1 p.m. – 2.30 p.m.)
Room 15, level -1, CICG
(Light lunch will be served)*

English only

Concept note

In December 2015, the UN climate change process took an important step forward in the global effort to address climate change. Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) adopted the Paris Agreement, which will govern international action and coordination on climate change into the next century. The Agreement was expected to enter into force by 2020. Important work on developing the rules governing the operation of the Agreement was also set to be completed over the next few years. However, because of the momentum that gathered last year, the Agreement is now due to enter into force on 4 November 2016, years in advance of initial expectations. This is a very welcome and positive step, but there are also domestic and international implications that governments and parliamentarians will need to consider.

Internationally, there will be implications for the Parties' obligations once the Agreement enters into force. The level of participation and inclusiveness in the crucial decision-making processes under the Agreement will also be affected. At the domestic level, States and parliamentarians will have to begin implementing the obligations under the Agreement. Parliamentarians will play an important role in this implementation through their budgetary, oversight and legislative functions.

During the session, the International Institute for Environment and Development give an update on the current ratification status of the Paris Agreement and on the implications for States when they ratify it. The important role of parliamentarians in the domestic ratification process will be highlighted. A briefing paper on the role of parliamentarians in the Paris Agreement will be discussed with participants. The session will also cover approaches that parliamentarians could consider when implementing climate change action in their countries. Two case studies will be shared to illustrate such approaches, relevant opportunities and challenges.

Expected outcome

Participants will learn about recent developments in the international climate change regime in the run up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Marrakech in November 2016. Participants should come away from this session with a better appreciation of the implications of the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement. Participants will also be able to share national experiences, opportunities and challenges related to embedding climate change action at the national level.

Format

The session will consist of an introductory presentation and follow-up discussion between parliamentarians and experts.